O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 136:1)

In November, we Americans turn our attention to one of our greatest national holidays - THANKSGIVING. Every American president since Abraham Lincoln has made an official Thanksgiving Proclamation on behalf of our nation. On November 28, we will continue in that tradition and offer thanksgiving to Almighty God for our countless blessings as a nation, as a Church Family, and as families and individuals.

We Orthodox Christians wholeheartedly embrace and teach this spirit of gratitude, because we know that the action of thanksgiving is one which makes us humans unique. Of all creatures, human beings are the only ones who can choose to express their gratitude to their Creator, or can choose to ignore all that God has given them. We become more fully human, however, as our lives become filled with gratitude. Just remember, our inability or unwillingness to express gratitude is a spiritual sickness, whose roots are hidden within our pride.

The Divine Liturgy which we celebrate every Sunday is often called the Eucharist, coming from the Greek word for “thanksgiving.” Yet, we are not called to express thanksgiving only on the first day of each week. In fact, we should rise and express gratitude to our Lord each and every day - for life itself, for the love of God and our faith we learn and nourish in His life-saving Church, for the knowledge that God is with us in the midst of health and wellbe-
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
37 Lake Parkway, PO Box 713
Webster, MA 01570
Church Telephone: (508) 943-8361  website: www.schwebster.org
Facebook: St Constantine Helens (Church)
Church Office Hours: Monday, Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim
the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith
for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus
Christ and one another through our **WORSHIP**, **FELLOWSHIP**, **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**, **WITNESS**, and **SERVICE**. We invite
all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

**Father Luke A. Veronis**
Telephone: (508) 949-7623 (h)  (774) 230-6985 (cell)
email: veronis@verizon.net

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### 2013 PARISH COUNCIL

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<td>President</td>
<td>Lisa Healy</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Lorna McWilliam</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Nick Popiak, Anton Cojcocaru</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Members</td>
<td>Vasil Condos, Leah DiDonato, Chris Geotis, Barbara Gianaris, Del Monroe, Helen Pappas, Deborah Raymond</td>
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### PHILOPTOCHOS

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<td>President</td>
<td>Evelyn Pappas</td>
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<td>Church Secretary</td>
<td>Jaime Ross</td>
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<td>Joey  Gliniecki, &amp;</td>
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<td>Zaki Giananaris</td>
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### Cantor

Cantor: Demetrios Milios

### Choir Directors

Choir Directors: Tony and Nike Beaudry

### Greek Dance Group

Greek Dance Group: Nike Beaudry

### Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School Teachers:

### YOUTH

YOUTH: Pres Faith Veronis

### Seminarians

Seminarians: Ron Burkhard, Nick Mueller, Steve Sarigianis, Brian Stefanovic

### Ecclesiarch

Ecclesiarch: Bill Anthopoulos

### Bookstore

Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams

### Sexton

Sexton: Katya Sidorchuk, Drew Kladas
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD!

Continued from Front Cover

ing, as well as during any trial or struggle we may face, for our family and friends and for all the people who enrich and bless our lives, and for all the opportunities we have in life. An “attitude of gratitude” is the sign of an authentic human being, one who is living up to the call in which God has created him/her. As we live lives of thanksgiving, we witness to the world around us our understanding of God’s love and grace.

God reflects the proportion of gratitude we have in our lives.

I wish all of you a most blessed month, and a joyous celebration of Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

Let me conclude with the beautiful words of the Psalmist, when he wrote,

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord all you lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
and into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting,
and His truth endures forever.”

Psalm 100

With love and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Luke
METROPOLITAN METHODIOS KEYNOTE
From the October Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference

The theme of today’s conference is, “Best Practices and Successful Ministries”. We gather in order to discuss the ways in which we can effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the faithful entrusted to our care throughout New England. It is important to constantly adapt our ministries as an Archdiocese, as a Metropolis and as communities. We must keep abreast with an ever changing reality in our communities which affects attendance in our liturgical services, participation in parish programs, and even interest in Orthodoxy itself. By learning what are the best practices and successful ministries in some parishes, we will hopefully improve the ministries in all our communities.

Our parishioners are fully integrated into the religious and societal landscape of America and, as a result, they live their Orthodox Faith quite differently than did our parents and grandparents. More and more brethren differentiate their religious and moral beliefs from the teachings of the Church. This is the result of their interactions with people of different religions, races, cultures, and ethnicities. It is the result of the constant bombardment of materialistic and hedonistic philosophies promulgated and advanced in the media. People today fashion their personal beliefs by integrating Orthodox and non-Orthodox elements. Without realizing it, they become “cafeteria Christians”. Just as they do not partake of every food item on a cafeteria line (but only those foods which they like), in the same way they feel they can pick and choose from what Orthodoxy teaches i.e., what teachings they accept and which they chose not to accept. As Orthodox Christians we run the risk of falling into—and being totally consumed—in the cultural melting pot of America, thus losing our identity. Let me be clear: Core teachings of our faith are not subject to popularity polls or political correctness. The changes in the moral standards in our society are obvious. We live in a culture of cruelty and an age of entitlement. We have become so accustomed to the slow deterioration of morality in society, that we have adapted to the moral decay around us and taken it for granted. We live in a world of moral and ethical relativism, hedonism and selfishness, a world in desperate need of spiritual renewal. For a long time now, Sunday has ceased being the day that we worship Almighty God and then sit as a family at our dinner table to enjoy fellowship. Sunday has been regulated to a mere weekday, a day to do the laundry, to go to the mall, to read the newspaper, to take our children to sporting events, etc. Prayers are no longer offered in our public schools. The Ten Commandments have long been removed from our civil courts. I would dare to say that those of us who serve on parish councils and other leadership roles in our communities rarely pray or read the Gospel on a daily basis. Lifestyles previously kept in the closet are now championed as reputable and worthy of emulation. I am sad to note that a legislator here in New England (who claims to be an Orthodox Christian and who champions Greek political causes) not only voted to change the law in his state to redefine homosexual unions as marriages—he asked for and received special permission to preside at a civil ceremony uniting a homosexual couple!

Christianity is under siege not only here in America, but throughout the world. I fear the day is fast approaching when no Christian will be left in the near East. It seems that every day we learn of the brutal killing of Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria, Palestine and India. Coptic Orthodox brethren have especially been affected. How sad and disappointing it is that the leaders of our nation do not have the courage to publicly protest this systematic genocide of Christians. Perhaps our Clergy Laity Assembly will want to address a resolution expressing our great concern for this war against Christianity, and our
support of the dwindling number of Christians that fear for their lives every day.

Recently, I was invited to preside at the baptisms of grandchildren of two close friends. I read the prescribed text from the 28th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, the last two verses of which read “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo that I am with you always to the close of the age” (Mt. 28, 19-20)

I knew what message I wanted to convey at the beginning of our Clergy Laity Assembly. You will surely agree that our mission as an Archdiocese, a Metropolis and individual parishes is to lead our brothers and sisters—both inside and outside the church—to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is becoming more and more difficult because many hesitate to share their faith, fearing they will be considered quaint and bothersome. This is especially the case in America’s colleges and universities where atheism and indifference on matters of faith and religion reign supreme.

It is in this setting that we must hear the commandment directed not only to the 12 disciples, but to all of us today. “Go, therefore and teach all nations....” We must ask ourselves if we take that commandment seriously and respond with the same zeal as did the 12 disciples that did “go” into the world to teach and make disciples. Do we go out into our parishes, our towns, our cities and neighborhoods to bring the message of salvation? Every community in New England has a large number of faithful that are for one reason or another not active in their parish. Do we “go” to them? Do we “go” to those that are not baptized to share the evangelion of salvation? Do we “go” to our young adults, many of whom are professional men and women to encourage them to serve on our parish councils—to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the work of the church? Last year we inaugurated a program known as Orthodoxy on Tap. We went where young adults gather to engage them in dialogue about the church and their spiritual lives. We will continue that program this year.

And so, my brothers and sisters, let this ecclesiastical year be a year dedicated to re-evangelize, to re-catechize, to re-teach the faith....to encourage one and all to “observe all that Christ has commanded us”. The truth is that many brethren sitting in the pews of our parishes are not knowledgeable of even the basic teachings and tenets of Orthodoxy!

During today’s conference you will hear detailed reports on the finances of our Archdiocese and Metropolis and the stewardship program. We will bring you up to date on the progress of our various Metropolis ministries. Please listen carefully and feel free to address any questions you may have to the presenters.

Following the morning session, you are invited to attend a workshop of your choice where the various ministries discussed in the general session will be presented more thoroughly.

Let us leave today’s conference with the commandment of the Savior echoing in our hearts: “Go therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” Mt. 28 (19-20).
I came to the Orthodox Church as a Mennonite, thanks to the Veronis family and to Fr Gouset-tis. I owe a great debt to these shepherds.

Stewardship was always emphasized as an important aspect of our Christian life as Mennonites. We were known as self-sacrificing, generous people. But the underlying theme of stewardship for Mennonites was justice. It is unjust to see people suffering from horrible poverty while the rich enjoy all of the best things of this world. We knew that God is not happy with this arrangement, and it was our duty to correct it wherever we could, by giving more, helping the poor, living with the poor, etc.

The Orthodox Church has a deeper understanding of this problem. While you can find writings by St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom on stewardship and justice that would make a Mennonite perfectly happy, the bigger picture is that injustice is caused by our own desires that have gotten out of control. Our own misplaced desires carry us away from our true spiritual vocation to love God with all our heart, all our mind and all our soul, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is what leads to injustice and allows poverty to enslave, while the rich seem to go free.

I heard a speaker talk about how our desires enslave us. He told about an African tribe that was very efficient in catching monkeys. Their method was very simple. They drilled a hole into a coconut, and made sure that the hole was a little smaller than the monkey’s fist. They would chain the coconut to a tree, then put delectable food inside it: boiled rice, pineapple, etc. The monkey is attracted by this little feast inside the coconut and he puts his hand in to grab some. When he gets his fist full of food, it is now too big to pull out of the hole. And he is trapped. The man is easily able to capture the monkey. All the monkey would have had to do was to open his fist, let go of the food, and pull his hand out of the coconut, and he would be free. But his desire won’t let him do that, and now he is trapped by his own desire.

We are trapped by our desires, and in the Bible, our desire for money seems especially dangerous to our souls. Eleven of Jesus’ 39 parables are about our relationship to money. One in every seven verses in the Gospel of Luke have something to say about money. We all know the verse in I Tim 6:10: “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” Jesus explains clearly in his teachings the dangers of money.

In St. Matthew 6:24 He says “You cannot serve both God and money.” Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will despise the one and love the other. You can’t love both. Love of money challenges our love of God.

In St. Luke 16 He describes a rich man whose business did very well. He was pretty satisfied with himself, so he decides to build bigger barns...
to keep all of his stuff. God calls him a fool because he relied on his own strength and not on God. That night his life was taken away from him.

In St. Luke 18 Jesus encounters a rich, righteous young man, who kept all of the laws. But Jesus said he lacked one thing: he loved his riches too much. He could not open up his fist and take it out of the coconut. He was trapped by his desire for riches. He walked away a sad man.

In the parable about the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus describes the gap that forms between the rich and the poor, the way that riches can separate us from each other. Money itself is not evil but love of money promotes walls between us, the injustice of poverty.

But Jesus gave the rich young man a prescription for his illness: go and sell all that you have and give to the poor. If he could have done that, he would have been free.

In the Orthodox faith, we have a great tradition for dealing with our desires. We have fast days and The Great Lent, which are designed to bring to light the ways our desires are trapping us and keeping us from our true calling to love God with all our heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. These tools help us to get our fists open, to let go of the desires that enslave us, and slip our little hands out of the coconut.

When it comes to money, the prescriptions to help us with this entrapment of greed are tithing and alms giving. When we open our grip on money, it has less power over us, and we can be free.

Jesus again and again talks about our treasures in heaven. These are not rewards given us for keeping all his commandments. They are treasures that we have been given here on earth and have used to help the poor, used to relieve suffering and to promote the Church. These are our true and lasting treasures, that rust will not corrode, moths will not eat, that stock markets and sequesters will not affect.

If our hands are stuck grasping the treasures of this world and not letting them go, we will not experience the freedom of heavenly treasures. Our stewardship emphasis is not only about God’s justice in this world, it is also about the salvation of our own souls. Let us welcome our Stewardship Campaign as medicine for our souls, just as we do The Great Lent.

Dr. Tom Miller, a hospice doctor, has spoken at our Sts. Constantine and Helen Church on the theme of “Facing End of Life Issues.” He is a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster, PA. Fr. Luke and Faith met him when he was serving as a Protestant Missionary Doctor in Albania. From that time and through their friendship, Dr. Miller began a spiritual journey which eventually led him and his wife to become Orthodox Christians. Fr. Luke stood up as his sponsor at his Chrismation and entrance into the Orthodox Church.
LIVING WITH GRATITUDE

There is a beautiful story about one of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln. One day an elderly woman made an appointment to see the president. When she entered his office, he welcomed her and asked, “How may I help you?” The woman responded in a quiet voice, “Mr. President, I know that you must be very busy. I didn’t come to ask anything of you. I simply came because I heard that you liked certain cookies, and I decided to bake some for you.” After she gave them to her, she got up to leave. However, she could see that there were tears in the president’s eyes.

He smiled at her and said, “Madam, I thank you for your gift. I must tell you that during all the years of my presidency, many people have come into my office ASKING for favors and EVEN DEMANDING that I help them in various ways. But you are the very first person to come into my office and ask for nothing, but instead to bring me a gift of thanksgiving. I thank you, and promise that I will never forget your act of love.”

How often do we ask, and EVEN DEMAND, things from God, and from those around us, while we don’t take time to thank God and others for all they have already done for us? When did we last express gratitude to our parents, our spouse, our family, our friends and others around us? Do we DAILY thank God for our health, the food we eat, the home we live in, the work we have, the opportunities of life we experience, and all his rich blessings of love, joy, peace, hope and eternal salvation? Or instead, do we simply focus on what others have and we don’t have?

Two common sins we often make are 1) forgetting to express our gratitude for our many blessings, or worse, 2) not being thankful for all we have, and instead complaining about what we don’t have.

Always remember a very important spiritual truth. THE INABILITY OR FORGETFULNESS OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE REFLECTS A SPIRITUAL SICKNESS. Pride is lurking nearby. We do not thank others, because by thanking them, we have to acknowledge that they have done something special for us. Too many have a hidden pride which hinders this expression of gratitude.

The inability or forgetfulness to express gratitude reflects a deep spiritual sickness.

God created us to be creatures of praise – people who continually praise our Creator and thank Him at all times. When we forget to do this, or ignore to do this, we reject a fundamental purpose of our lives!

In the Psalms, King David and other writers thank God more than 60 times for his goodness, his love, and infinite blessings. One of the most beautiful passages comes from Psalm 103, “Bless the Lord O my soul, and do not forget all that he has done for me!” DO NOT FORGET! We can never count the innumerable blessings of God, and we should express our gratitude to Him without ceasing.

St. Paul condemns the ungrateful in his letter to the Romans, when he writes, “Although they knew God,
they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking.” (Rom 1:21) St. Paul does not chastise the Romans because they do not know God, he reprimands them because they know God but do not thank Him!

More than 50 times throughout his letters, St. Paul admonished his readers to thank God! “Give thanks to God at all times” (Eph 5:20). “Give thanks to God in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess 5:18). “Devote yourself to prayer, KEEPING ALERT IN IT WITH THANKSGIVING” (Col 4:2) “In whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God” (Col 3:17).

Even our formal worship in the Church calls us to thanksgiving. Another name for the Divine Liturgy is the Eucharist (Eukaristia), which means, “to be thankful.” In the middle of each Liturgy, the priest turns to the people and says, “Let us lift up our hearts. Let us give thanks to the Lord.” Following this call to gratitude, the priest offers a prayer which enumerates all for which we should thank God, including our very existence, our salvation from sin, our entrance into His Kingdom, the promise of eternal life, and for every blessing seen and unseen.

In private prayers, make thanksgiving a central part of our daily prayers. Try to never ask for more things than for which you thank God.

And don’t only make gratitude to God an integral part of your life, but learn to concretely thank all the people God brings into your life. How often people do something special for us, and we don’t properly acknowledge their act. Don’t let our pride determine our behavior. Let us continually humble ourselves, and thank all those around us - our parents for giving us life, our families for showing us love, our friends who stay near us during our times of need, our teachers and other special people who have inspired us, guided us, and enlightened us.

When we pause and reflect on our lives, I am sure that numerous people have influenced our lives in positive ways. What is stopping us from thanking them with our words, by writing a letter, and by expressing our gratitude in a concrete way.

Let me conclude with the words of our first President, George Washington: “ Whereas, it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; Whereas, both the houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness!” Now therefore, I do recommend next, to be devoted by the people of the states to the service of that great and glorious being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be, that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks…”

From this day forward, let us all try to be thankful to God and one another, for all the blessings of life which we have received!
THE DANGER OF INTERNET PORNOGRAPHY

One of the fastest growing, and dangerous addictions in our contemporary society is internet pornography. It is terribly affecting our youth and destroying marriages. It is negatively impacting the way we look at others, while distorting our understanding of relationships and sexuality. Look at these statistics:

- The average age of first exposure to internet pornography is 11 years old
- 73% of children are exposed to pornography online before the age of 18, most while doing homework!
- 42% of kids first view pornography before the age of 13
- 25% of teens are unwillingly exposed to nudity online when they are not looking for it
- 56% of divorce cases involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornography
- 80% of teens ages 15-17 have had multiple exposures to hardcore pornography
- 67% of kids admit to clearing their browser history to hide internet use of porn from their parents
- 10% of girls and 18% of boys ages 12-17 have seen rape or sexual violence online
- 18% of girls and 32% of boys have viewed bestiality on the internet
- 55% of girls and 69% of boys ages 12-17 have seen porn showing same-sex intercourse

Psychologists have, for a number of years, called Internet Pornography the new crack cocaine. Personally, I think this is an understatement! I think it is actually damaging us as a society and as individuals in a much greater way than crack cocaine or any other drug.

Mary Ann Layden
Center for Cognitive Therapy
University of Pennsylvania

Come to a Presentation & Discussion on
“THE INSIDIOUS DANGER OF INTERNET PORN”
A Must See for All Parents and Married Couples!!
6:30pm, November 23
At the Church

57% of girls and 83% of boys ages 12-17 have seen group sex on the internet

Please come to an informative presentation and discussion on “The Insidious Danger of Internet Pornography” on November 23. We will discuss the dangers, as well as ways to address this issue and help protect our children and ourselves.
ACTING AS GOOD STEWARDS

“A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much, for what he gives remains his forever.”

This year, the Archdiocesan Theme for Stewardship is *The Gifts of the Magi*, along with this beautiful quote from St. John Chrysostom.

As we enter into November, our attention turns to Thanksgiving, a time when we reflect on our countless blessings of life. Of course, every Sunday we Christians celebrate the Eucharist, which is the *Great Thanksgiving Service*, where we offer our prayer and gratitude to God for His countless blessings, including the greatest mystical gift of His life-giving Body and Blood, which is for “the forgiveness of our sins and for life everlasting.” Thanksgiving and Stewardship go hand in hand, because stewardship is a concrete way of expressing our gratitude to our Creator.

On November 24th, our Church will celebrate STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2014. This is the day that we show our gratitude to God by expressing how we plan to support the Body of Christ, His Holy Orthodox Church and His ministries through the giving of our time, talents and treasure! Each one of us makes Christ’s local Church healthy, vibrant and alive through our participation!

Please prayerfully consider your stewardship commitment this year and reflect on how you can use the gifts that God has given you, to offer your time and talents in the WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, EDUCATION, SERVICE, and MISSION of the Church, and how you can financially support the ministries and work of our beloved church.

There is no minimum or maximum pledge to the Church. It is a free will offering, giving whatever you want according to how God has blessed you. The average FREE WILL stewardship pledge this year is approximately $650. Our Parish Council member average pledge last year was $2600, with $1300 being the median pledge. This shows how our parish leaders believe in and support our stewardship program.

Each year, we have around 25 stewards who feel so blessed that they have become PACESETTERS, which means they give at least $25/week, or between $1300 - $1900 to the Church. Thus far we have 7 stewards who have become TORCHBEARERS, giving between $2,000 - $4,000, and 4 stewards who are GOOD SHEPHERDS, giving between $4,100 - $10,000. Would you consider becoming a PACESETTER, a TORCHBEARER, or even a GOOD SHEPHERD this year, if God has blessed you in a financial way to make this possible?

THANK GOD AND THANK YOU that each year, since we introduced the Stewardship System in 2006, our stewardship giving has increased as our overall budget has increased. We have never ended any year in the red, but have met all the needs of our ministry and operation as our budget has jumped from $69,000 in 2004 to approximately $210,000 for 2014. Our budgeted 2014 goal for stewardship giving is $105,000.

You have all received a Stewardship Commitment Card in the mail. Please send it back to the Church Office with your pledge, or bring it on Stewardship Sunday, November 24th. Help us get a 100% response from all members so that we can better budget for next year.

Remember the promise of our Lord, “Bring the full ten percent into my house… and put me to the test. See if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” (Malachi 3:10)

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of Christ’s beloved Church!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in...
“As Many As Have Been Baptized in Christ, Have Put on Christ.”

Congratulations to Maximos Sotirios, the son of Chuck and Misty Pappas, on his baptism and entrance into the Church.

PROJECT MEXICO MEETING
5:00PM SATURDAY, NOV 23

For anyone interested in participating in building a home for Project Mexico next summer (July 15-21, 2014), this will be an informational meeting, including discussions on fundraising.

We hope to take a group of 20 to Mexico this Summer!
Come and learn about this incredible experience!!!

Congratulations on the 40 Day Churchings of Giorgios, son of John and Eleni Sgouritsas, and Corbin Alexander, son of Nikita Giantios.
CHRISTMAS PRAYER CHAIN

During the first week of December, we will have a “24 Hour a Day Christmas Prayer Chain.” We are looking for 24 parishioners who will each commit to pray in their homes for one hour a day during the first seven days of December. Each parishioner will commit to pray at a different hour of the day and night. This means that at every moment from December 1-7, someone from our Church Family will be lifting up their voice in prayer, supplication, thanksgiving and praise to God.

The purpose of our Prayer Chain is twofold: First, to help the participants get into the real “spirit” of Christmas - one that helps us prepare to receive our Lord Jesus Christ into our lives anew. Second, to get our Church Family to pray for one another and all those who have any special needs. If you know someone who needs extra prayers, please give their names to Fr. Luke before December 1.

If you are interested in participating in this Prayer Chain by committing to pray for one hour a day in your home during each of the first seven days of December, please contact Fr. Luke. He will provide for you the prayers and the structure of how to pray for one hour.
THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Help our Church give 15 Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families! Pick up a basket, and with another family, fill it up with delicious goods! Show your gratitude to God by sharing what you have with others!!! See Sophia Foisy or Pauline Mueller to sign up.

2013 Annual Church Family Christmas Card

Our Philoptochos Society will offer an opportunity for all our Church Family members to be a part of our annual CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD. The Christmas Card goes to the homes of all our parishioners wishing them blessings during the upcoming holiday season.

A minimum donation of $15 per family is greatly appreciated. All donations will support the various philanthropic ministries of the Philoptochos.

If you would like to be included, please give your donation and the names to Donna Cooney or Debby Raymond by Dec. 8th, or mail them to the Church Office, noting Church Family Christmas Card.

SERVING ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

One special way to act as a good steward of your time and talents is by serving on the Parish Council. This two year commitment is a way you can serve in the leadership of our Church Family and assist Fr. Luke in fulfilling the mission & vision of our Church.

The role of a Parish Council member is a sacred and spiritual task. Each Parish Council member is to act as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and offer a good witness of their Orthodox Christian Faith. In assisting in the administrative responsibilities of the Church, the Parish Council works hand-in-hand with Fr. Luke in strengthening the earthly ministry of God’s Holy Church.

One should run for the Parish Council out of a conviction to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ through humble service to one another and to His Church. Any steward wishing to serve, including those who are seeking re-election, should hand talk to our Nomination Committee.

Every candidate must:
- Live his/her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church
- Attend a PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR before Elections
- Be an UP TO DATE FINANCIAL STEWARD of the parish for at least one year preceding the date of the elections

If elected, a Parish Council member should:
- Attend Divine Liturgy regularly
- Participate in the sacramental life of the Church
- Administer the affairs of the Parish in such a way as to work with Fr. Luke in the fulfillment of the Church’s ministry.
“JOY” WEST SIDE CREAMERY CORN MAZE

By Seminarian Nick Mueller

It feels like Fall - the leaves are rusty reds and bright yellows and the breeze is a just a bit colder. The shadows are a little longer as well, and pumpkins are sprouting up around doorways. On October 19th, 15 of our Sts. Constantine and Helen youth, along with their parents went to the West Side Creamery and enjoyed a beautiful Fall evening of fellowship.

At the Creamery we enjoyed the farm animals—including cows and some unbelievably large rabbits. We got lost together in the gigantic corn maze with just some flashlights and a shoddy sense of direction. We were finally able to navigate our way through with the help of Smaranda’s Biblical knowledge, though Zach, Petru, and Anton made it through first no problem. We looked up at one point to see them racing across the bridge near the center and then emerge from the tall corn.

Nicholas raced around the track on some peddle tractors, and, apparently, a really big pit of corn kernels is super fun to play around in….just ask Elizabeta, Panayiota, Kara, and Maia about that!

Afterward we had some hot chocolate and warmed up a bit before heading back home. It was a beautiful Fall Joy activity!

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Christmas Poinsettia

If you would like to donate a Christmas Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, or for the Glory of God, please send in $50 to the Church Office. We will purchase the poinsettia and list the names of those honored or commemorated in our Monthly Bulletin.

You can also donate the outdoor Christmas Wreaths for $75 each.

FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
11:30, Sunday, Nov. 24
(Come and Enjoy an expanded Coffee Fellowship)

Agenda:

- Minutes & Financial Report
- Fr. Luke’s Pastoral Report
- Projects Committee Update
- 2014 Budget Proposal
- Other Business

Please come and join us for an update on the State of our Church Family.

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A NOTE FROM THE PHILOPTOCHOS

************************************************************************************************

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013
the Philoptochos will be having it’s

COME AND BRING A FRIEND TO THE
THIRD ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

The dinner will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and will include a Center Table Raffle. First Prize will be a Thanksgiving Basket.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12. Tickets may be purchased the night of the dinner, or in advance during coffee hour after Church.

We are selling advertisements for the Spaghetti Dinner placemats. Ads are a $25 donation each, and can be purchased to highlight your business, or to offer personal well wishes. Anyone interested may contact Evelyn Pappas for more details.

Donations are also being accepted for Center Table gifts. Anyone interested in donating a gift for the Center Table may contact one of the Philoptochos officers.

************************************************************************************************

OTHER PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We will once again sponsor our “Bakeless Bake Sale” during the month of November. Donations may be given to either Thomai Gatsogiannis or Leah DiDonato, after Church on Sundays, or during the upcoming Philoptochos meeting.

Debbie Raymond will continue to be in charge of the Sunshine Fund. Please let Debbie know of any Church member who may be ill or hospitalized, so that we can help lift their spirits with a little bit of “Sunshine”.

Donna Cooney and Debbie Raymond will be the Co-Chairwomen of the Annual Christmas Card Committee. This is a great opportunity to be a part the Church Family Christmas Card, and to spread Holiday Cheer during the Blessed Holiday Season. More details on Christmas Card in coming weeks.

************************************************************************************************

Reminder
Please remember to pay your annual Philoptochos Dues.
Dues are $20 per member, and can be paid to any of the Philoptochos Officers.

************************************************************************************************

SAVE THE DATE
Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on
Sunday, December 15, 2013,
at J. Anthony’s in Oxford, MA.
Does Anyone Have a PIANO that is in good shape and which you would like to donate to the Church?

Or anyone want to make a donation to buy a used piano?

Please contact Fr Luke. We want to begin using a piano in recitals and talents shows for the church.

**ORTHODOXY 101 CATECHISM CLASSES**

6:00pm Saturday, Nov 2, 9
8:00am Nov 16

**EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY**

6:30 am - 7:30 am
Every Saturday

**WEEKDAY CHURCH SERVICES**

GREAT VESPERS
5:30pm, Saturday (Nov 2, 9, 23)

PARACLESIS SERVICE
6:30pm Wednesday, Nov 13

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
6:30pm Monday, November 25

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGIES
Nov 13 - 9:30 am St John Chrysostom
Nov 20 - 6:00pm Entrance of Theotokos

**WEDNESDAY MORNING  BIBLE STUDY**

10:30-11:45
Every Wednesday

All Are Welcome!
The Light November 2013

USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

November 3
Chris Constantine, Barbara Gianaris,
Dan Healy, Dan Rivelli, Ron Sanderson

November 10
Arthur Bilis & Del Monroe, Chris Geotis,
Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea,

November 17
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit,
Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy, Gus Koulax

November 24
Neal Neslusan, Anton Cojocaru,
Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato, Bob and
Lea Mirandola

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Nov 3 – Donna Cooney, Athena
Cooney, Leah DiDonato, Bill
Anthopoulos

Nov 10 – Kathy Bilis,
Charlotte Neslusan, Marie Monroe,
Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond

Nov 17 – Thomai Gatsogiannis,
Jaime Ross, Betty Tonna, Eleni
Xanthopoulos, Kiku Andersen

Nov 24 – Marie McNally, Christa
Benoit, Sandi Kunkel

We are looking for more
volunteers to help with
Coffee Fellowship. Please
let Fr. Luke know if you
are willing to help
once a month!

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

Nov 3 - Paris McWilliam
(2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 - page 95)

Nov 10 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Galatians 1:11-19 - page 97)

Nov 17 - Maia Beaudry
(Galatians 2:16-20 - page 98)

Nov 24 - Panayiota Veronis
(Galatians 6:11-18 - page 100)

Dec 1 - Hanna Kunkel
(Ephesians 2:4-10 - page 102)

Dec 8 - Theodora Veronis
(Ephesians 2:14-22 - page 104)

Dec 15 - Maria Mironidis
(2 Timothy 1:8-18)

Dec 22 - Olivia Neslusan
(Hebrews 11:9-40 - page 118)

PRAISE THE LORD
Praise God in His Saints; Praise Him in
the firmament of His power; Praise Him
for His mighty acts; Praise Him according
to the abundance of His greatness. Praise
Him with the trumpet sound; Praise Him
with the harp and lyre; Praise Him with
timbrel and dance; Praise Him with
strings and flute; Praise Him with
resounding cymbals; Praise Him with
triumphant cymbals; Let everything that
breathes praise the Lord.
Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in NOVEMBER:**

Try to make a visit, give a call, or express your congratulations to our Church Family members who celebrate special days during this month.

**BIRTHDAYS:**
- Nov 4: Despina Condos
- Nov 6: Natalie Megas
- Nov 10: Christopher Grzyb
- Nov 10: Logan Mueller
- Nov 13: Charlotte Neslusan
- Nov 13: Victoria McNally
- Nov 14: Ann Chito
- Nov 15: Georgia Beland
- Nov 15: Victor Enacho
- Nov 18: Spiro Pappas
- Nov 18: Stella Pappas
- Nov 21: Peter George
- Nov 22: Alexandra Koulax
- Nov 27: Chris Constantine
- Nov 30: Leah Didonato
- Nov 30: James Pappas

**NAMEDAYS:**
- Nov 8: Archangel Michael
  - Michael Angelo
  - Michael Chito
  - Michael Belanger
- Nov 11: St. Menas & St Victor
  - Michel (Mina) Pappas
  - Victoria McNally
- Nov 16: St. Matthew
  - Matt Benoit
  - Matt Neslusan
  - Matthew Weiss
  - Matvey Zhuk
- Nov 25: St. Catherine
  - Katerina Beland
  - Kathy Bilis
  - Catherine Jordanoglou
  - Kathy Kunkel
  - Katerina McWilliams
  - Katie Mironides

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**
- Nov 6: Christie & Helen Constantine
- Nov 10: Chris and Joan Geotis
- Nov 19: Arthur & Kathy Bilis
- Nov 19: Sandi & Gerry Kunkel
- Nov 27: Eric & Katerina Beland
THE BIBLE & STEWARDSHIP

Return to God His Own Gifts

“No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord God has bestowed on you.” (Deut 16:10-17)

Proportionate Giving
The Old Testament laid down the standard of giving a tithe (10% of one’s income) back to God. This provides us with the example - giving should be in proportion to our income. Stewardship is returning to God a fair proportion of the blessings He has given to us. The more we are given, the more is expected from us. “To whom much is given, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48)

Giving Regularly
St. Paul advises us, “On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.” (1 Cor 16:2) Each Sunday, we should prepare to make our Stewardship contribution to the Church in accordance with the Lord’s generosity to us personally. Supporting the Church should be a priority for Every Orthodox Christian, and offered on a regular and consistent basis.

Consider how your expenditures on personal entertainment compare with your Stewardship Pledge. Is your Stewardship simply a token donation? Or is it a meaningful respond to Christ’s request?

Money Enables Ministry
Money is a necessary tool for ministry. The Church’s mission of salvation and evangelism depends directly on your generosity, which supports your parish, metropolis, and archdiocese.

The Sts. Constantine and Helen operating budget for 2014 will be approximately $215,000. Our Stewardship goal of $105,000 partially supports all the Parish Ministries and our entire budget. We should not depend on special affairs, however, to meet our budget. The growth of our Faith and sharing it with others should be our personal responsibility. Stewardship places the responsibility where it belongs, directly on us!

Your Stewardship is vital to our Church so we can:
  + Maintain & Grow our Church
  + Provide for those who serve us
  + Support our worship and education
  + Support our outreach and service
  + Support our National Church
  + Keep in touch with you
  + Fulfill our mandate to spread the Good News of Salvation to our local...
Learning the Word of God

HOLY SCRIPTURE ON THANKSGIVING

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name, for the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name… forget not all His benefits; who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your soul with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Psalm 103:1-5

O Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NOVEMBER

Nov 1 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8, Matt 10:1, 5-8
Nov 6 Hebrews 8:1-6, Luke 12:8-12
Nov 8 Hebrews 2:2-10, Luke 10:16-21
Nov 12 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 5:14-19
Nov 13 Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2, John 10:9-16
Nov 14 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, John 1:43-51
Nov 23 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Luke 10:19-21
Nov 25 Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5, Mark 5:24-34
Nov 26 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Luke 19:45-48
Nov 28 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14, Luke 20:9-18
Nov 29 1 Thessalonians 2:14-20, Luke 20:19-26
Nov 30 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, John 1:35-52
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

If you would like to place an ad and support our monthly bulletin, please contact Fr. Luke or the Church Office.

$200/year or $20/month.

Dudley - Auburn - Blackstone

Michael G. Constantinou
Certified Senior Advisor
Worcester, MA 01609
508-793-0780
miconfs@miconfs.com

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ROBERT J. MILLER Toll Free 866-360-0045
Funeral Director Fax (508) 943-3163
Email: miller.funerals@verizon.net www.rjmillerfunerals.net

Sitkowski and Malboeuf
Funeral Home
340 School Street
Webster, MA 01570
508-943-1515

Roland P. Malboeuf, Funeral Director
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COME & VOLUNTEER to HELP BUILD A HOME in Worcester with our Church Family and

8:00am - 12:00pm and 12:00pm-4:00pm SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

WE NEED 15-20 VOLUNTEERS FOR EACH SHIFT !!!

We will be working at the same home we worked at in July. All volunteers must be 12 years old and over.
Contact Fr. Luke to sign up.